



Michigan Mental Health Commission

established by Governor Jennifer Granholm's Executive Order 2003-24

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY

September 20, 2004

Crowne Plaza

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Commissioners Present

Patrick Babcock, Co-chair; Waltraud Prechter, Co-chair; William Allen, Fran Amos, Elizabeth Bauer, Beverly Blaney, Thomas Carli, Patricia Caruso, Nick Ciaramataro, Bill Gill, Beverly Hammerstrom, Rick Haverkate, Gilda Jacobs, Joan Jackson Johnson, Alexis Kaczynski, Sander Levin, Kathryn Lynnes, Milton Mack, Samir Mashni, Andy Meisner, Janet Olszewski, Donna Orrin, Jeff Patton, Brian Pepler, Michele Reid, Mark Reinstein, Roberta Sanders, David Sprey, Sara Stech, Rajiv Tandon, Maxine Thome, Marianne Udow, Thomas Watkins.

Welcome and Agenda Overview

The meeting was convened at 8:35 AM. Patrick Babcock called the meeting to order and reviewed the protocol for the day. He emphasized that the draft report the commissioners had received was the best effort to date to reflect the comments received from the public, as well as the reports submitted by the work groups. The work today is to reach consensus on recommendations that address the goals of the commission, that is, to provide the people of Michigan with the most appropriate mental health system. The co-chairs have put forth their best judgments and options, and it is critical that the full commission work to meet the deadline established in the executive order. Co-chair Babcock urged the commissioners to seek consensus today, but reserved a possible meeting on September 27 to finalize whatever is not finished today. He asked commissioners to put aside any personal agendas and keep to the issues, in the interest of the people of Michigan. He reiterated that even after this commission's work is done, each commissioner will have the opportunity to influence the executive and legislative branches of government, and that the commission should consider recommending a method for participation in the implementation of the recommendations.

One commissioner asked whether it was too late to submit recommendations that were part of the work group report but did not make it into the draft report. Co-chair Babcock said it would be appropriate to address them today. Another commissioner asked whether changes to language would be accepted, and Co-chair Babcock said to send them to PSC by noon on September 22. Another commissioner asked that we differentiate between semantics and changing language that is exclusionary, particularly pertaining to children.

Co-chair Prechter reviewed the agenda and the commission proceeded to approve the summary of the August 17 meeting unanimously, without alteration. Roll call of commissioners was taken. Co-chair Babcock introduced John Cleveland, the meeting facilitator.

Mr. Cleveland presented the decision-making process for the day. He urged the commissioners to think of the report as a “strategy document,” which makes it more of a *compass* than a *roadmap*. He asked the commissioners to use the 80/20 rule in their deliberations: if they believe in the recommendation 80 percent and generally agree with the direction, they should support it, using the colored card system. This method is used to determine which of the issues the group wants to spend more time on. He clarified the process for one commissioner who was concerned about the amendments he had submitted; Mr. Cleveland said the substantive issues could be addressed through today’s process when there was something that needed to be changed in order to convert a red card to a green card.

The commissioner objected to changing the process from what they had previously understood. Another commissioner wanted to see the changes that were put in. Mr. Cleveland said the staff would e-mail all changes to the commissioners. Any commissioner may request a Microsoft Word version of the draft report from PSC to provide recommended changes. Another commissioner wanted clarification about the role of the committee chairs; Co-chair Babcock said it would be to look at the recommendations from today and frame them for the meeting on September 27. A commissioner objected to not having seen the amendments; he objected to not ever having debated the issues. Co-chair Babcock said we’ve had lots of discussion, at the work group level, and the PMT level, and at the full commission level.

Several commissioners encouraged forward movement and asked for clarification. Commentes included the following:

- Let’s trust the process, that it will lead us to a direction. If we want to have an impact on policy, we’ve got to meet the executive order deadline. Nobody is trying to pull the wool over anyone’s eyes.
- Let’s move ahead, and have a “parking lot” list of issues to revisit later.
- Let’s not trust the process. Let’s debate some of these issues, and not use a protocol preventing that from happening. (Mr. Cleveland said that this process will determine which issues should be debated.)
- Will the commission be deciding, or will the co-chairs/PMT be making the decisions? Mr. Cleveland said that if 2/3 of the commission agrees, it will be decided today.

Review of Vision and Issue Statements

One commissioner said that the reworded vision excludes children and some priority populations; it needs to include individuals with mental illness AND emotional disorders.

Another commissioner would like to see more of a reflection that mental health and physical health are the same thing. Co-chair Prechter suggested the language “mental health deserves the same urgency as physical health.” The commissioner also suggested that the vision should encompass something about following best practices, speaking to the quality issue. Other commissioners recommended that the vision should be brief; it will never say everything, and many points made are covered in the values.

One commissioner said that the “illness” concept needs to be primary. Also, if we add emotional disorders, we are saying they are different than mental illness. Another commissioner suggested we just add “children” and it will cover the “emotional disorder” issue. Mr. Cleveland reiterated that there are more elaborate descriptions in the values, and that the vision should remain short. He said any specific changes should be sent to PSC.

A commissioner asked if the work group chairs would be deciding the language or if the full commission would. Co-chair Babcock said that the work group chairs/PMT would and then submit it to the full commission.

Overview of Goals and Recommendations

The commission followed a process to determine the recommendations with support, those for which there is concern, and those for which there is objection. The result of the process will be reflected in a revised draft report that commissioners will receive on September 24.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM. The commissioners were advised of the next meeting, to be held on September 27 in Lansing, at the Holiday Inn West.